

CLAIMS

1. The use of an allergen-reducing amount of an allergen-deactivating compound (hereinafter the "deactivant"),
5 dispersed into an airspace at which an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate is located, to achieve a prolonged reduction in the allergen loading of the substrate, wherein the reduction after 14 days is at least as great as the initial reduction.
- 10 2. The use of an allergen-reducing amount of an allergen-deactivating compound (hereinafter the "deactivant"), dispersed into an airspace at which an allergen-contaminated inanimate substrate is located, to achieve a
15 prolonged reduction in the allergen loading of the substrate, wherein the reduction after 28 days is at least as great as the initial reduction.
- 20 3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the deactivant dispersed into the airspace is as a vapour.
4. The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the dispersal of the deactivant dispersed into the airspace is aided by heat.
- 25 5. The use as claimed in claim 4, wherein the heat applied to the deactivant is by use of an oil burner, candle or hotplate.
- 30 6. The use as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over a period of at least 30 minutes.

7. The use as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant is selected from:

5 a terpene hydrocarbon;
 a citrus oil;
 a mint oil;
 bois de rose oil;
 oil of jasmine;
 frankincense;
10 oil of bergamot; and
 oil of lemon grass;
 or a component thereof.

8. The use as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the
15 deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon or a component thereof.

9. The use as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises β -pinene.

20

10. The use as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.

25

30